

IN THE CLAIMS

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an implantable cardiac rhythm management device configured to detect electrocardiogram data of a patient's heart rhythm status and to provide a cardiac rhythm therapy to a patient;

a handheld patient-operated user-interface device, communicatively coupled to the cardiac rhythm management device, the user-interface device configured to deliver a therapy request command to the cardiac rhythm management device, to receive heart rhythm status information from the cardiac rhythm management device, and to provide the heart rhythm status information to the patient in response to the therapy request command, the heart rhythm status information including:

a normal rhythm indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of a normal heart rhythm;

an abnormal rhythm indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of an abnormal heart rhythm;

a therapy pending indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of an abnormal heart rhythm that can be treated by the implantable cardiac rhythm management device; and

a contact caregiver indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of a condition requiring the intervention of a physician; and

wherein the cardiac rhythm management device is configured to deliver a therapy in response to the provided therapy pending indication if the therapy pending indication is provided in response to the therapy request command.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the user-interface device is configured to deliver a stop therapy request to the cardiac rhythm management device and the cardiac rhythm management device is configured to stop the therapy in response to the stop therapy request.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the user-interface device includes a plurality of physically separated deadfront status indicators configured to provide the heart rhythm status information to the patient, the plurality of deadfront status indicators differentiated from each other by the use of different pictorial graphic shapes that convey information pictographically.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the plurality of deadfront status indicators includes:

- a normal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator;
- a therapy request indicative deadfront status indicator;
- an abnormal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator; and
- a contact caregiver indicative deadfront status indicator.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the normal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator includes a green colored icon in a heart shape, the therapy pending indicative deadfront status indicator includes an orange colored icon in a heart shape with a clock face positioned in the heart shape, the abnormal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator includes a yellow colored icon in the shape of a heart with a sharp jagged line extending across the heart, and the contact caregiver indicative deadfront status indicator includes a red colored icon in the shape of a telephone having a base unit with a cross in the center of the base unit.

46. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

requesting therapy from an implantable cardiac rhythm management device using a therapy request command from a handheld patient-operated user-interface device;

providing heart rhythm status information to the user-interface device from the cardiac rhythm management device in response to the therapy request command, the heart rhythm status information indicating the current status of the patient's heart rhythm using electrocardiogram data detected by the cardiac rhythm management device, the providing the heart rhythm status information including:

providing a normal heart rhythm indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of a normal heart rhythm;

providing a therapy pending indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of an abnormal heart rhythm that can be treated by the implantable cardiac rhythm management device;

providing an abnormal heart rhythm indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of an abnormal heart rhythm that cannot be treated by the implantable cardiac rhythm management device; and

providing a contact caregiver indication if the heart rhythm status information is indicative of a condition requiring the intervention of a physician; and

delivering a therapy to the patient using the implantable cardiac rhythm management device ~~in response to the provided therapy pending indication~~ if the therapy pending indication is provided in response to the therapy request command.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the providing the normal heart rhythm indication includes using normal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator, the providing the therapy pending indication includes using a therapy pending indicative deadfront status indicator, the providing the abnormal heart rhythm indication includes using an abnormal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator, and the providing the contact caregiver indication includes using a contact caregiver indicative deadfront status indicator.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the normal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator includes a green colored icon in a heart shape, the therapy pending indicative deadfront status indicator includes an orange colored icon in a heart shape with a clock face positioned in the heart shape, the abnormal rhythm indicative deadfront status indicator includes a yellow colored icon in the shape of a heart with a sharp jagged line extending across the heart, and the contact caregiver indicative deadfront status indicator includes a red colored icon in the shape of a telephone having a base unit with a cross in the center of the base unit.

49-56. (Canceled)